UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,568,155 B1
APPLICATION NO. : 09/636418
DATED : July 28, 2009
INVENTOR(S) : Axe et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

The title page showing the illustrative figure should be deleted to be replaced with the attached title page.

The drawing sheet, consisting of Fig. 1, should be deleted to be replaced with the drawing sheet, consisting of Fig. 1, as shown on the attached page.

On sheet 10 of 10, in Figure 10, Ref. Numeral 1030, line 1, delete "recieves" and insert -- receives --, therefor.

On sheet 10 of 10, in Figure 10, Ref. Numeral 1065, line 1, delete "recieves" and insert -- receives --, therefor.

In column 7, line 1, delete "auction" and insert -- action --, therefor.

In column 12, line 4, in claim 15, after "selection of" delete "the".

Signed and Sealed this

Twenty-ninth Day of June, 2010

David J. Kappos

David J. Kappos
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

(12) **United States Patent**
Axe et al.

(10) **Patent No.: US 7,568,155 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent: Jul. 28, 2009**

(54) **VISUAL CONFIGURATOR**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 2135 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/636,418**

(22) Filed: **Aug. 10, 2000**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06F 17/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **715/246**; 715/243; 715/244

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 715/517, 715/518, 520, 521, 539, 200, 243, 244, 246, 715/247, 272; 717/107
See application file for complete search history.

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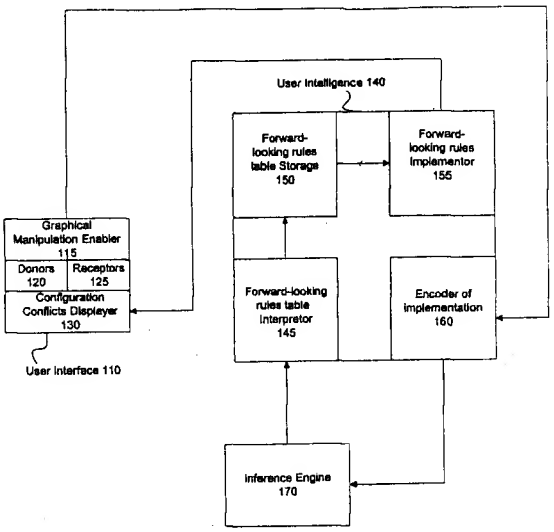
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method, system, and computer program product for addressing a general class of configuration problems requiring visual placement. Such configuration problems are solved as a single group using a visual user interface which guides the users' behavior. The present invention may be implemented over the Internet for rapid and efficient distribution without any additional software on the client side other than a web browser. The inference engine may be on a remote server. The client side device may include a visual user interface as well as a small amount of user side intelligence. In one embodiment, a visual interface on the client device helps the user create a product comprised of selectable components, where each component is placed where the user wants it. Since the client device contains some amount of user intelligence, the client device does not need to send an entire web page to the inference engine, and receive an entire new web page from the inference engine, every time a user selects a component. Instead, once a user makes a selection, the client device can merely send over to the inference engine, the component selected, and the desired placement of the component. The inference engine, in turn, can merely send over information regarding which slots are constrained and how. The client device may include a web-browser, via which it can communicate with the inference engine over the Internet.

27 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



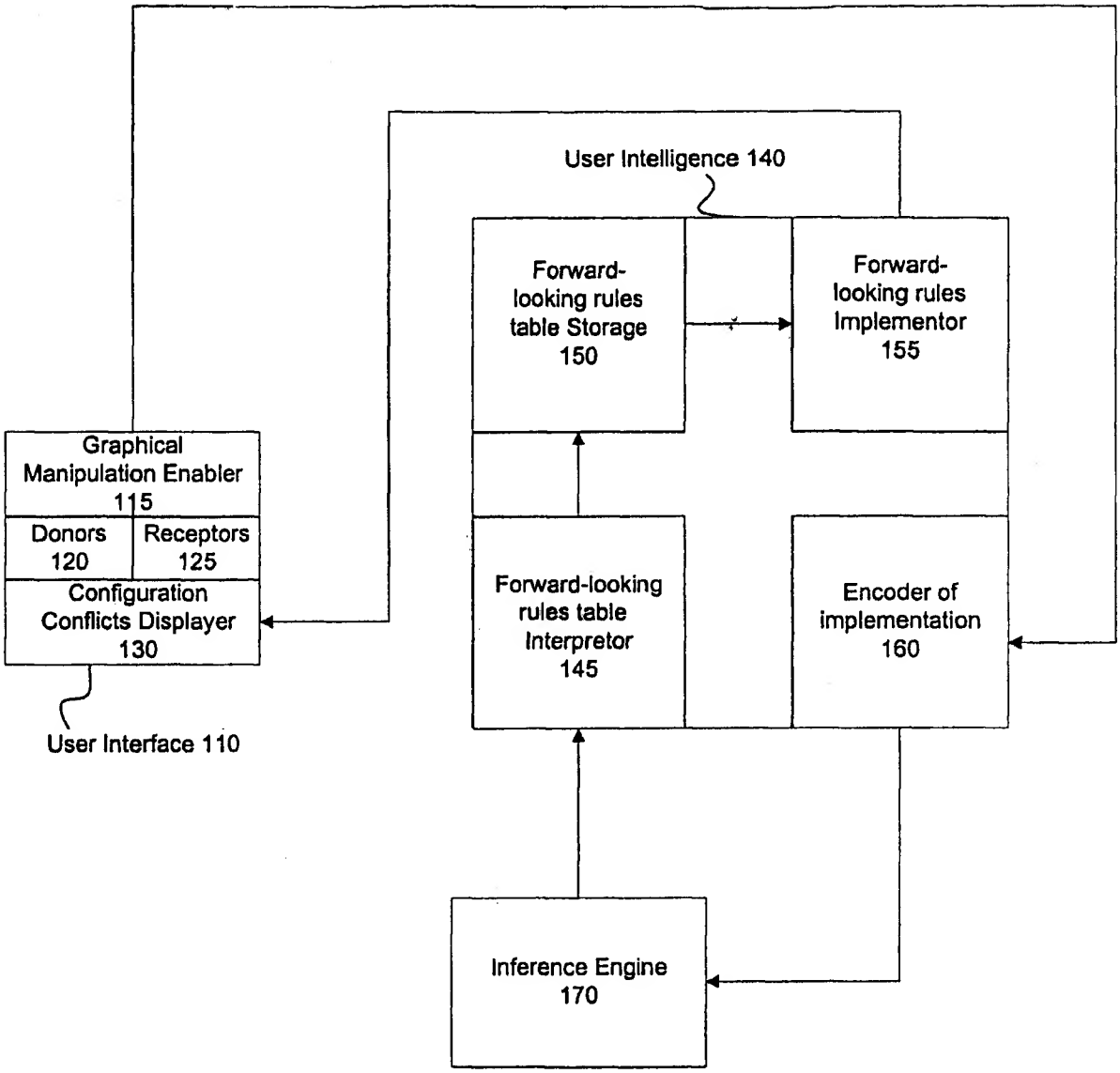

User Intelligence 140
Forward-looking rules table Storage 150
Forward-looking rules Implementor 155
Graphical Manipulation Enabler 115
Donors 120
Receptors 125
Configuration Conflicts Displayer 130
User Interface 110
Forward-looking rules table Interpretor 145
Encoder of implementation 160
Inference Engine 170

Figure 1